

Dunmigh Cottage, County of Dublin, September 28. 1856.

My dear friend - It is now I believe more than a week since your very welcome letter came to hand - but it reached me at the beginning of the busiest part of the month - that is, at the end of it when the publishing time came on & I have to print a monthly magazine - the Dublin University, with a heap of proofs to be read & reread - and then to write for, label, & send the Anti-Slavery Abstracts which is all generally on my unsharpened shoulders except that Mrs. W. & I give me important help in reading the proofs - a very over and over responsible part of my business - and sometimes very hard on the eyes. In the letter I had some time since from your sister Anne she tells me that her eyes are troublesome - that she cannot safely use them as she used to do. About three or four years ago I printed a very thick volume in small type which I took great pains to have correctly put out of hands so that I read it two or three times over. Since then my eyes have not been so strong - I cannot now then do much as I used to do - and I have been occasionally alarmed by a sensation of dimness - of water dancing before the eyes that are I suppose a portion of one of the Three Warnings that we all feel sooner or later at some time or other. So whenever my eyes are troublesome I think of your sister Anne and wish that our mutual eye had as little to trouble them as they had twenty years ago.

Now you gratify my vanity by finding fault with me for not writing. The truth I would have been only too happy if as we say here I had had the slightest word of the kind that you wished me to do so all the time that I never heard from you. I frankly accept all the blame you give for not writing, even half - but I could know that you were so engaged as to make you unable or unwilling to have your attention (which I knew was greatly absorbed by your cares) diverted by your friends among the outer barbarians. I had a suspicion too, which had probably been slight foundation - that you were a little huffed with me for having directed to Miss Thompson some of that London Anti-Slavery Conference which Pillsbury attended, and here in his desire for to conciliate people things of his American friends and their cause. Knowing your warm affection & admiration for S. J. I supposed that you were hardly reminded to me for having directed things in a very mild way to his cause at that time - though I knew that if any other person had acted as he did there, you would have entirely approved of ~~it~~ which I saw at the time. I am perfectly certain that Mrs. Chapman thought that what I said had better been left unsaid - which I still think I

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I only did what was right in my position. No circumstances that have occurred in my experience (since my interest in the anti-slavery cause commenced) in connection with that cause has given me so much pain as this necessity I then felt under of considering George Thompson holding back at that time when so much maintenance & support to the Am. A. S. Society & its friends was fairly expected from him. For my feelings towards George Thompson have ever been those of affection and admiration & I can always entertain a warm interest in his welfare. A few days since thinking this letter would be greatly increased in value in your eyes if I could give you some information about J. T. I wrote to his son-in-law Mr. Chepman who lives in London and I had a letter from him this morning, of which I will give you the substance. Mr. Chepman says that Mr. T. has often expressed to him the exceedingly kind feelings he entertains towards the Messrs. Watson. He reports to say that a short time ago while at Calcutta he was seized with a severe attack of bilious fever, which compelled him to leave India, and visit Ceylon where he was endeavoring and is hope successfully to recruit his shattered health. For two of three successive weeks nothing more than a few lines were received from him, but by the last mail Mrs. Thompson received a letter giving hopes of his speedy recovery & his early return to Calcutta. They do not know how long he will be absent from England. It may be for five years in his agreement extends over that period; but the probability is that he will be back in two years. The business which has taken him to India is of a character which renders it necessary that it should be kept private - and it is, therefore, only known to those for whom he acts in England and to the agents in India whom he will be obliged to employ. It is possible that before he returns his engagements will render it necessary for him to traverse a large part of India the West Indies & China. He has lived in comparative seclusion in Calcutta, his visits being confined almost exclusively to his Madras friends of whom he gives some highly interesting descriptions. He has also visited the Rajah of Burdwan and other petty princes who have received him with great cordiality. Mr. Chepman says further that he will send you copies of his letters which have appeared in some English papers as soon as I send him your address which I will take care to do. He receives his Liberator regularly - and my letters addressed to him to the care of Messrs. Ashburnes & Co. Calcutta will be sure to reach him. I am empowered to send to the Messrs. Watson the best remembrance of Mrs. Chepman, nee Thompson. - Here as I write sits beside me my poor wife busily folding & directing Advocate but obliged to give being overwhelmed with sleep - so was she not engaged till one o'clock this morning copying for the press my second letter to the Times on Anti-Slavery matters. For I would have you to know that the letter you will see in the Advocate that you herewith was actually accepted by the Times, so

there is a feather in my cap! More than this I had a letter a day or two after  
from Samuel Martineau who rarely ever writes to me now - and who has never  
before said a word in commendation of any of my Quaker - in which she thanks  
me for my capital letter and says it has had a visible effect on the tone of the  
Times itself. Only thanks how sweetest I am in consequence, and of how very much  
I must require to be tried. To tell the truth these little parts in the back are mighty  
pleasant as they are a capital mark receipt & correction to the effect of that chilly  
indifference with which my anti-slavery hallucinations are regarded by most  
of my neighbours in Dublin. Along with Miss Martineau who came on from her  
cousin Mrs James of Kentonfield near Nottingham who is now in a great way, her  
three lady friends kept a "first class" Unitarian school which she had resigned  
to a Miss Lady, a friend of her own, which she continues to reside at the place or  
her chosen home Mrs James met Mr Chapman at Amblecote, & partly  
through his means and partly Patrick Pillsbury she is a real hot abolitionist  
only sorry that she has come to know of the cause so late in life - & is doing  
her best (and to very good purpose) to inoculate some of her old pupils with  
her own new born zeal. In Dublin there are several of these ladies of high  
culture & great piety, who are to be likely to save the cause substantially, &  
who would be rejoiced to see and talk to even with herself and all good with  
scholar, or writer. About my second letter to the Times I will tell you what  
nobody else but my old woman knows. I have written a second, thinking it  
best to strike while the iron is hot, and that the chance of to have an audience  
for a thousand faced Garrisonian abolitionist is not a thing to be missed for  
want of a little modest assurance. What I have long longed for and wished  
for above all things, for the anti-slavery cause in England, or now coming  
to have in consequence of the interest excited by the Sumner outrage & the affair  
in Kansas. The people hitherto ignorant & indifferent, are beginning to look at  
the root of the matter & to see in the infernal system of slavery the root of  
all their disgraceful & degrading outrages on sound sense & constitutional liberty.  
All the leading English papers take up the subject and many of them  
discuss it with great ability, and Mr Chapman tells me that within the last two  
weeks he has read at least one hundred through going anti-slavery articles,  
in the provincial papers ~~in~~ in which the abolition doctrine of the abo-  
litionists are becoming better understood - and even the Whig Globe which has such  
a horror of extreme opinions has given Garrison & Phillips a prominent place  
in its editorial columns. I have always thought it of prime importance to bring  
the names of the leading abolitionists as much as possible before the English public  
for the interest in a cause is so much more hearty when it is mixed up  
with a strong human interest - with something to admire & to love, as well as to  
condemn & condemn. Miss Martineau has made a noble use of her important

position as one of the leading contributors to the Daily News. She has regularly  
led herself to write up Garrison and Phillips to public notice in England  
so as to make household words of their names. She is an extraordinarily  
able great woman full of magnanimous feelings towards every one. Amongst many  
other things for which I have to thank my acquaintance with abolitionism in its  
having as you know a little irregularly brought me finally into a cordial friendship  
with the very remarkable deaf woman who is, I do nearly destitute of taste &  
smell. Mrs James tells me in a note I had from her that Miss M. is kept very  
quiet - that she never only from one room to another - that she talks and lectures  
about as painful to her as talking at all is possible, and that it is surprising  
how little altered for the worse she seems to be (though she is evidently weakened)  
than when she saw her last year. I am not one who takes on me much concern  
about the selection of other people's souls - even if it is a subtle art which I am so  
very little acquainted. But Miss Martineau's terrible Alkanna book I thought is  
heavy one - and I suppose if her speculations were analysed they would amount  
to nothing more than what we must all feel - that when we look beyond this  
present life that contains so much to puzzle us, and affords us imperfect  
philosophy, slow measuring tape, and materialistic ideas to the things of the  
other world, we are obliged to admit that we know very little - and that the best  
application of our faculties is to do as well as we can within them here. There is  
unquestionably what she is trying to do - and to an extent and with such before  
that was never surpassed by any other woman of equal endowment, & similar  
natural disadvantages.

It was in 1852, I paid a very hearty visit  
to London, and Mr & Miss Estlin there, accompanied me & Geo. Thompson to Liverpool  
and saw me off to America. The next year I was also in London with the Estlins  
for a few days & left it shortly before the first attack of paralysis affected our dear  
friend. I have never been there since - but I have been a visit at Clevedon in the  
following year. How often I have regretted that I did not consent to remain with  
him longer than - but owing to my partner in business having left me in 1853, I have  
been ever since much less at liberty than heretofore - for plenty is an enormous  
~~to~~ employment full of constant necessity for watchfulness & anxiety - twenty parts  
of the process may be all right, and a mistake in the 21<sup>st</sup> will spoil it all. I  
have thus been greatly confined much against my will - for I am neither reason-  
ably ambitious nor ambitious, and there is nothing I enjoy so much as see weaker  
men to see my friends or those who I suppose would like to see me. For the last  
three years I have not before been for three years together without a visit to London  
- though indeed since 1850, my matches of longer than have not been a week  
altogether. As I grow older I do not think the advantages of the United States  
are by any means so many as I used to suppose - taking every thing, climate, health,  
society, &c. into account - but there is an advantage that we have not by a

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man to learn what you hear. We cannot so readily make or learn an independence - and, having made it and spent it, it is a hundred fold more difficult to regain your lost position. How many Americans who had not 500 dollars in the world have I know who have spent year in England, visited the continent and had abundance of time to look about them in each of them and seen places and people that it would be very warm to see; then get your home at least as well as they came. Such were in New York, Durham, N.C. Wright, Miller, Keane, Pillsbury & others. I know they had a special vocation about I had not - but if I or any one in my position were to spend a year in that way, he might be prepared to his trade and settle down in some country where in a few hundred dollars a year of independent income & take a education if he could get one - which is not probable - for nobody here would employ such a fool. This is the way with our people of business. The professions have a great advantage - as the long vacation whereby the months from July to October are generally recognized as holiday times for all of them who can find money to have home for a while. I do not think there has ever been such a general getting of the kind as during the season and nearly now. Nearly every such person who could leave Dublin has been out of town - and I doubt not it has been the same though in a lesser degree in England.

We have particularly enjoyed ourselves this year. The south side of Dublin is by far the most fashionable as indeed it is the prettiest by nature - but for many miles in that direction the country there is simply covered with gentlemen's seats, surrounded with high walls - stiff suburban villas huddled together with little formal bits of garden, - villages & houses by the roadside that have nothing country like or rural about them. Such objects as these I never liked or cared for. I like the country to be the country and accordingly this year we found out the place where I am now writing. It is an old fantastic building - one story in front - two stories behind, with a built-in of tumble-down outflowing of a large farm yard - from round the house on one side - an avenue of lofty trees leading to the house from the road - a large old-fashioned garden immediately adjoining, fringed about the parlour windows with - filled when we came with promise of abundant gooseberries, strawberries, plums, & as many apples as could be expected this particularly had year for such fruit - we had besides within the acre which the garden wall enclosed, half an acre of potatoes - the place being thoroughly in the country & in a district rather out of the way, unimpaired for present railway communication, & totally unfurnished as far as it being cheap than enjoyed it accordingly. Our own home supplied an abundance of the most elderly carpets, chairs, bed & other furniture to furnish the place very comfortably in an unexpected way - & we are as much in the country as if we were a hundred miles from Dublin. We had intense enjoyment of the summer morning of the

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in quiet performance of our Mr. Ross and Mrs. Brown. The passage into the garden through an old arch way was like walking into paradise. Some years ago one of our girls bought a little black & white pup for three pence - is young and soft that it had to be thumped - a mere shopkeeper little man - not "perfectly heavenly" like that cherub angel a kitten that Annie Chapman had in Versailles when I was with you. This dog we christened "Fris" for the three pence - and she lived in the office rather a nuisance from his tendency to bark at customers. We brought her out to Drumsiff, however, & she has added a certain dignity to the place by accompanying us who approach our Magister's portals. She also accompanies any of the family down to the train when others of us are expected from town in the evening. We have been here some the middle of June I think of staying the full term we can stay - that is till the end of October. Amongst the disadvantages that the place has offers which we are thankful seem it in no way in the latter publications are that being a sort of Castle Rackrent shield we are uncertain times it is in such bad repair that the rain comes down through the roof in some places - so that we have had a vessel to catch it in our bed room on one or two occasions. As the season has been generally very fine this has been no real trouble except that in the house it is hardly to be extracted heat summer that we are not likely to have the use of it - which we greatly regret. It is in the tenure of an old farmer who farms the surrounding fields & as his hold is uncertain he has chosen to waste money in keeping the place from ruin. The garden also was filled with weeds to an extraordinary degree and had got as culture. Since we came here the people in the neighborhood have been so fully employed that we have not been able to get a single person to let even a woman - to do their usual work. A great change from the overcrowding & want of employment which only a few years since seemed the normal state of Ireland.

In the course of the summer I had a short visit perhaps half an hour from Miss Henry, from a somewhat stately, stiff man with a decided Henry face such as you find Howard in one of the made up tombs (in the vaults of Versailles) in the recumbent effigy of some of old French nobility. He told me two or three times that Edmund would surely be disappointed if he were to pass through Dublin ~~without~~ without calling to see his friend Mr. W. He also told me how some of the Miss Wintons told him in Switzerland how delighted they were to see him he was as like his brother Edmund. I thought him a gentlemanly well bred man but not particularly interesting in his own behalf, though Edmund had been rejoiced to be of any use to him for the sake of his wholehearted brother. This fine old father who addresses to the People of Henry I hope you have seen. Since that visit I have had another & a pleasant visit from another of the family - Mr. Mrs. Waterston & their daughter Helen. Mr. W. is a quiet little man somewhat proud & in the old style. Mrs. W. I found very friendly & full of admiration of her family - praising her father & her brother Edmund with special

I spent a day showing them the lions of Dublin, & they came out in the evening to our Summer Palace where the old fashioned tumble down steps of the place, the random architecture & the queer garden eaten up with weeds afforded them a pleasing variety. Indeed they were very pleasant & desirous to make themselves acquainted. My son & I sketched a town in the Co. of Wicklow for them & introduced them to some friends of mine in Cork & on their return I had intended to get them into the Ms. Room of the Dublin University Library where they saw and handled (an extraordinary favor) manuscripts upwards of 1200 years old - one of them of extraordinary interest & in wonderful preservation - an illuminated copy of the Gospel said to have belonged to St. Columba, St. Patrick's successor in the 7<sup>th</sup> Century, and certainly of that age. Mrs. Weston lent me a copy of her father's address during her absence - & I lent it to Miss Martineau who made it the theme of two articles in the Daily News - I afterwards got a copy from G. 2. for myself which I sent with a note to the Editor of the Times who made it the theme of a leading article - & in this way I perhaps undesignedly commended my own letter to his acceptance. There is much that is egotistical in this letter - but I don't mind this if I make the speech more interesting & amusing to you. I find that the influence of a very obscure person like myself is much greater than we would suppose when concentrated on the one subject & looking round for opportunities to benefit the cause. You may have read in the Advocate a letter some remarks on the Manchester Examiner & Times in reference to its proslavery course. I sent that paper to the proprietors whom I know. It elicited an illtempered & ill-reasoned reply - but I have since had the privilege of writing subsequent articles in which they come out with flaming anti-slavery professions.

It is now time to say that I have faithfully observed your charge about your own letter to this extent, that, except Mrs. Webb, with whom I liked to share whatever is going, nobody has seen or heard any part of your letter read. Indeed there is nobody else to whom I could have shown it if you had made no remark - except Miss Estlin, between whom and ourselves there is generally a community of all letters connected with our ~~business~~ mutual American friends. Poor Miss Estlin! since I met her in Lancaster last year (when in better spirits than Chapman on his way home from Liverpool,) I have had much less communication with her than heretofore - her health has been bad this year & is very fragment, so that all mental exertion must be avoided as much as possible. Occasionally I get a scrap of a note when she encloses letters that she wishes me to see. Mentally & heartily she is the same as ever & is always doing good as you may suppose but it is a great deprivation to me to see her so little from her as she was in fact almost my only correspondent within the three Kingdoms - and you know I derive a great nourishment from letters - they are a kind of element to me when I like the writing.

My Antislavery son is at home with us - so is our eldest girl whom you saw in London. My youngest son did not like my business & has left us to leave the Milling business trade which is an excellent one in Ireland when well conducted. My youngest daughter is at a friends school in Dorking, the former residence of Mr. Pease. My mother thought she advised her society more desirable than we could give her - and so then she is a very black sheep indeed, even to many bigotted little orthodox quakers. It is in my opinion vastly inferior to Miss Pease's Ladies College - but then the disadvantages were very great for want of a real settled home at a reasonable rate for plain people's children.

Now I have written you an enormous letter - such a one as I have not penned this many a long day to any body - Yours such come when we write plainly. I could not write it. If I left to to write a few words I could not write half so much or so freely - and as part of your efforts was quite a study for indelicateness you will be better able to put with my kabbography than when I write so beautifully.

As to Mrs. Pease I never saw her so as to distinguish her features and if she were in Dublin I fear she would be out of my reach. It was a grand thing for me that when I first became acquainted with the abolitionists they were all of favour with the good people or I could have had no chance of seeing them. So few from being harassed they were shunned & so I fell upon delightful people and glorious parts of God. Mrs. Pease, I see would probably be picked up & proposed by such people as Archbishop Whately or Lord Castlereagh if they came to Dublin. I would like mightily to have a good long talk with her - perhaps I may through your kind intervention some time or other.

Eliza Wigham of Edinburgh as true a friend to the cause as any woman now present is now in Dublin - with her sister Mrs. Edmondson. It would be a thousand pities you should go home without seeing them & then from another fine Wigham - Wigham's sister - & I hope I may be able to see you in Ireland, France or somewhere else should you remain on the Continent as well as under my own roof when all or any of you will be as welcome as the flowers in May - which I have this year learned to love & prize more fondly than ever. With kindest regards to you all  
I am ever affectionately friend

If you can write me word let me at least know of Eliza Wigham is just now come into the  
of your movements & change of address. I assure Heaven her love which is worth accepting

Richard Webb

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